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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25XREPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Strength Estimate of Soviet  
Personnel in Germany

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25X1.1. Introduction

a. The following strength estimate of Soviet ground forces breaks down each army, including rear services of division and below, into component combat units (para 2 and 3). The rear services above division level are estimated at 7 percent of the total strength of combat units and supporting GHQ units for the entire Group of Occupation Forces (para 4).

b. Information on the present actual strength varies between 65 percent and 85 percent as compared with the estimated T/O strength. According to most indications [redacted] on the 39th Gds Rifle Div 75 percent is taken as the average percentage.

c. The present strength of the filled up cadre units is calculated at 88 percent of the full units [redacted]

The former cadre divisions may not have been filled up to the same degree (10th Gds and 25th Tank Div are still weak) but 88 percent has been taken as the only reasonable estimate, though it may be somewhat high.

d. Very rough estimates of the Soviet Control Commission (para 7), the Air Force (para 8), the Navy (para 9), and the MVD/MGB (para 10) personnel are given herein, although the information available does not provide a firm basis for these figures.

2. Combat Units, GHQ Units, and Hqs of the ArmiesUnits and Hqsa. Eighth Gds Army

Army Hq

| Document No.                                     | Actual Strength |
|--|-----------------|
| 023  | 450             |
| No Change in Class                               |                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified |                 |
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|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Two corps Hqs (XXVIII Gds and XXIX Gds)   | 420    |
| Two motorized rifle divisions (39th Gds and 57th Gds)                                   | 16,600 |
| T/O - 11,000  |        |
| Actual - 8,300  |        |
| Two mechanized divisions (20th Gds and 21st Gds)  | 18,400 |
| T/O - 12,200  |        |
| Actual - 9,200  |        |
| 13th AAA Div  | 1,900  |
| T/O - 2,500   |        |
| Actual - 1,900  |        |
| 38th AT Arty Brig   | 1,200  |
| 43rd Gds Army Gun Brig  | 1,100  |
| 220th Hvy Tank/SP Arty Regt   | 800    |
| Three signal battalions (446th, 27th Gds and ? No Sig Bn)                               | 600    |
| Engineer units totaling the strength of one regiment (only 19th Gds Engr Bn identified) | 900    |
| Two corps engineer battalions (880th and ? No Engr Bn)                                  | 560    |
| Total Hqs and combat units of Eighth Gds Army   | 42,930 |
| <br>b. <u>Third Shock Army</u>  |        |
| Army Hq   | 450    |
| Two corps Hqs (IX and LXXIX)  | 420    |
| Two motorized rifle divisions (94th Gds and 207th)                                      | 16,600 |
| T/O - 11,000  |        |
| Actual - 8,300  |        |
| Two mechanized divisions (19th Gds and 18th)  | 18,400 |
| T/O - 12,200  |        |
| Actual - 9,200  |        |
| 3rd Gds AAA Div   | 1,900  |
| T/O - 2,500   |        |
| Actual - 1,900  |        |
| ? No AT Arty Brig (3rd Gds?)  | 1,200  |
| 44th Army Gun Arty Brig   | 1,100  |
| 136th Gds Hvy Tank/SP Arty Regt   | 800    |
| 105th Sig Regt  | 650    |
| Two corps signal battalions (977th and ? No Sig Bn)                                     | 400    |

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|--|------------|
| Engineer units in total strength of one engineer regiment (19th?)          | 900        |
| Two corps engineer battalions (890th and ?)                                | <u>560</u> |
| Total Hqs and combat units of Third Shock Army                             | 43,380     |
| c. <u>First Gds Mecz Army</u>  |            |
| Army Hq  | 450        |
| Two tank divisions (9th and 11th Gds)                                      | 15,800     |
| T/O - 9,800  |            |
| Actual - 7,900   |            |
| 8th Gds Mecz Div   | 9,200      |
| T/O - 12,200   |            |
| Actual - 9,200   |            |
| 4th Gds AAA Div  | 1,900      |
| T/O - 2,500  |            |
| Actual - 1,900   |            |
| ? No AT or Light Arty Brig   | 1,200      |
| ? No Engr Regt   | 900        |
| One pontoon bridge battalion (not identified but believed to be present)   | 280        |
| One signal regiment (not identified, but believed to be present)           | 650        |
| 6th Mtel Bn  | <u>300</u> |
| Total Hqs and combat units of First Gds Mecz Army                          | 30,680     |
| d. <u>Second Gds Mecz Army</u>   |            |
| Army Hq  | 450        |
| Two tank divisions (9th Gds and 12th Gds)                                  | 15,800     |
| T/O - 9,800  |            |
| Actual - 7,900   |            |
| 1st Mecz Div   | 9,200      |
| T/O - 12,200   |            |
| Actual - 9,200   |            |
| 31st AAA Div   | 1,900      |
| T/O - 2,500  |            |
| Actual - 1,900   |            |
| One antitank or light artillery brigade (1643rd AT Regt may be part of it) | 1,200      |
| ? No Sig Regt  | 650        |

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|--|--------|
| One engineer regiment (not identified, but believed to be present)   | 900    |
| 413th Pon Bdg Bn   | 280    |
| Total Hqs and combat units of Second Gds Mecz Army   | 30,380 |
| e. <u>Third Gds Mecz Army (formerly Cadre)</u>   |        |
| Army Hq  | 400    |
| Two tank divisions (6th Gds and 7th Gds, formerly cadre)   | 13,900 |
| T/O - 9,800  |        |
| Present actual - 6,950   |        |
| Two mechanized divisions (14th Gds and 9th, formerly cadre)  | 16,200 |
| T/O - 12,200   |        |
| Present actual - 8,100   |        |
| ? No AAA Div   | 1,700  |
| T/O - 2,500  |        |
| Present actual - 1,700   |        |
| 199th Light Arty Brig  | 1,050  |
| One engineer regiment (not identified, only one ? No Bn)   | 800    |
| One signal regiment (not identified, but believed to be present)   | 600    |
| 91st Gds RL Regt   | 400    |
| 50th Mtl Regt  | 550    |
| (Independent Gds heavy tank/SP regiment, and pontoon bridge battalion are not counted, though they may be present) |        |
| Total Hq and combat units of Third Gds Mecz Army (formerly Cadre)  | 35,600 |
| f. <u>Fourth Gds Mecz Army (formerly Cadre)</u>  |        |
| Army Hq  | 400    |
| Two tank divisions (10th Gds and 25th, formerly Cadre)   | 13,900 |
| T/O - 9,800  |        |
| Present actual - 6,950   |        |
| Two mechanized divisions (6th Gds and 7th Gds, formerly Cadre)   | 16,200 |
| T/O - 12,200   |        |
| Present actual - 8,100   |        |
| ? No AAA Div   | 1,700  |
| T/O - 2,500  |        |
| Present actual - 1,700   |        |

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 93rd Gds Hv Tank/SP Regt                                    | 700 |
| 3rd Engr Regt   | 800 |
| 312th Gds RL Regt   | 400 |
| One signal regiment (not identified, assumed to be present) | 600 |

(Artillery brigade, motorcycle battalion or regiment, and pontoon bridge battalion are not counted, though they may be present)

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Total Hq and combat units of Fourth Gds Mecz Army (formerly Cadre) | 34,700 |
|--|--------|

3. GHq Units and Hq of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG)

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Hq GOFG | 700 |
|---------|-----|

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Hq IV Arty Corps | 200 |
|------------------|-----|

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| (6th Arty Div (including 25th Gds RL Brig, 30th Gds Gun Brig, one light or antitank artillery brigade and one howitzer brigade) | 7,700 |
| T/O - 10,200  |       |
| Actual - 7,700  |       |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Two antiaircraft artillery divisions (2d Gds and 6th (?) Gds) | 3,800 |
| T/O - 2,500   |       |
| Actual - 1,900  |       |

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 18th Cml Brig | 700 |
|---------------|-----|

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 36th Pon Bdg Regt | 900 |
|-------------------|-----|

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 367th Gds SP Arty Regt | 700 |
|------------------------|-----|

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| One signal battalion (not identified but believed to be present in addition to MVD signal regiment) | 200 |
|---|-----|

(Additional heavy howitzer brigade, antitank artillery brigade and engineer regiment are not counted, though they may be present. 95th Gds RL Regt is assumed as being part of rocket launcher brigade counted with 6th Arty Div)

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Total GHq units | 14,900 |
|-----------------|--------|

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 4. Total strength of Hqs, combat units, and GHq units according to para 2 and 3 | 232,570 |
|---|---------|

5. Rear services (without Soviet Control Commission):

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Percentage is roughly estimated at 7 percent of total combat strength (para 4): | 16,300 |
|---|--------|

(According to German calculations in WW II the strength of rear services of the Red Army above divisions represented 18.3 percent of the combat strength in late 1944)

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6. Total strength of Soviet Ground Forces in Germany  
(without Soviet Control Commission):

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total of paras 4 and 5: | 249,000<br>(approximate) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|

7. Soviet Control Commission in Germany

Information available on the reduction of the former SMA personnel is not sufficient to justify an estimate of the present strength of the Soviet Control Commission.

By detailed calculation of March 1949 the total strength of SMA personnel (including military personnel within railroad directorates, Soviet stock companies, and dismantling offices) was estimated at 23,000.

The reorganization into offices of the Soviet Control Commission is still going on. Scanty information indicates that this reorganization effects a considerable reduction which may amount to about 60 to 70 percent.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Present Soviet Control Commission personnel<br>may be roughly estimated at: | 7,000 |
|---|-------|

8. Soviet Air Force in Germany

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| The total personnel of combat and air-technical<br>units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army is estimated at: | 34,000 |
|---|--------|

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Other personnel in air force schools, research<br>institutes, supply dumps, and liaison staffs<br>are estimated at: | <u>6,000</u> |
|---|--------------|

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Estimated total Soviet Air Force personnel<br>in Germany: | 40,000 |
|---|--------|

9. Coastal personnel of the Soviet Navy in Germany

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Rough estimate of harbor, coast guard,<br>and liaison personnel | 2,000 |
|---|-------|

10. MVD and MGB Personnel

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Units in the strength of eight security regiments | 13,200 |
|---|--------|

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Zonal Hq | 300 |
|----------|-----|

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 6 Operative Sector Hqs @ 60 | 360 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 20 Operative District Hqs @ 30 | 600 |
|--------------------------------|-----|

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 160 Operative Group Hqs @ 20 | 3,200 |
|------------------------------|-------|

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Signal communications personnel | <u>500</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------|

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Rough estimate of total MVD/MGB personnel: | 18,000 |
|--|--------|

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11. Estimated Total Strength of Soviet Military Personnel in Germany

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Soviet Army               | 249,000       |
| Soviet Control Commission | 7,000         |
| Soviet Air Force          | 40,000        |
| Soviet Navy               | 2,000         |
| MVD/MGB                   | <u>18,000</u> |
| Total:                    | 316,000       |

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